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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo.—“In answer to clause (b) it is stated that proposals have been received from the Director of Industries and are under the consideration of the Government. Have these proposals been placed before the advisory board of Industries?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“They have not yet been scrutinized by Government and when they are scrutinized they will be placed before the Advisory Committee.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether the school in the Northern Circars will be more paying or whether it will be better attended?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“I think that it may be more patronised than any school in the Ceded districts.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Does he suggest that the need for a school in the Ceded districts is less, or that the people there, may be slow to take advantage of it? If it is the latter, it is the duty of the Government to educate the people so as to recognise the need for it.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“That is our idea, and we are also trying to educate the people in the manner suggested.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation.

Water-rate in Madura on the basis of resettlement registers.

354 Q.—Mr. ABBAS ALI: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been decided in Madura Town District Munsif's Court that the adoption of the resettlement registers for water-rate is contrary to Irrigation Cess Act;

(b) whether water-rate is charged for water taken through inamdars faisal water courses and inamdar's tanks comprised within the limits of his village;

(c) whether water-rate is charged on involuntary supply also in such cases;

(d) whether in cases of such involuntary supply, the ryots' application made to avoid water-rate is refused and penal water-rate charged at 20 times as in case of irregular and unauthorized supply; and

(e) whether it is a fact that all orders for permanent supply were cancelled by the Collector of Madura without any individual notice to the ryots?

A.—(a) The Government have no information of any such decision.

(b) & (c) If the hon. Member refers to the inam villages irrigated by the Periyar project the answer is in the affirmative.

(d) No such cases have been brought to the notice of Government.

(e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 331 asked at the present meeting.

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Result of the Collectors' Conference regarding the Irrigation Bill.

355 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether as a result of the discussions and deliberations at the Collectors' Conference any recommendations were received by the Government regarding any of the provisions in the Irrigation Bill and whether such recommendations will be published for general information?

A.—No recommendations were received as a result of the conference. The opportunity of this conference was taken to examine further the effect on administration and revenue of some of the provisions of the Bill.

Secretariat.*Appointment of non-technical officers as Secretary and Under Secretary in the Public Works Department.*

356 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have recently appointed non-technical officers as Secretary and Under Secretary in the Public Works Department;

(b) whether this departure is to be only temporary or permanent;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have recommended the scheduling of these appointments and, if so, what are the reasons for such recommendation;

(d) whether the Government are aware that there is a very strong feeling in the country against the policy of scheduling every high appointment created;

(e) whether it is true that the Government propose to make the appointment of Registrar-General of Panchayats permanent; and

(f) whether it is true that the Government have recommended this appointment also to be scheduled; if so, what are the reasons for such recommendation?

A.—(a) A member of the Indian Civil Service was appointed temporary Secretary in the Public Works Department on 21st May 1925. No non-technical officer has been appointed Under Secretary in the Public Works Department.

(b) & (c) The appointment is temporary for six months, but the Government of India have been asked to obtain the Secretary of State's sanction to the appointment of a non-professional Secretary to relieve the Chief Engineers of their Secretarial duties and to the addition for this purpose of one appointment in the superior time scale to the cadre of the Indian Civil Service with a corresponding inferior training post.

(d) No.

(e) & (f) The Secretary of State has sanctioned the permanent retention of the post of Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and the consequent addition to the Indian Civil Service cadre of one post on the superior time scale with a corresponding training post on the inferior time scale. The present Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is

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also Registrar-General of Village Panchayats, but the latter appointment is not included in the cadre of the Indian Civil Service and there is no proposal under consideration to include it in that cadre.

Convict Settlements.

Allotment for the Kavali Erukula Settlement.

357 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) why the allotment for the Kavali Erukula settlement has been increased immensely in the current budget;

(b) whether the excess amount over that of the previous year has been sanctioned by the Finance Committee; and

(c) whether the accounts of that settlement are audited regularly by the Government and found satisfactory?

A.—(a) The increased provision in the budget estimate for the current year over the budget estimate for 1924–25 is due to—

(1) the increase in the strength of the Kavali Settlement during the year on account of the transfer to Kavali of settlers from the Guntur Reformatory Settlement and the Bhuvanagadda Settlement (which has been abolished); and

(2) the fact that the financial arrangements proposed in connexion with the re-organization of the Kavali Settlement (which were taken into account in fixing the budget estimate for 1924–25) were not given effect to. The provision is not excessive when compared with the revised estimate for 1924–25 and the actuals of 1923–24.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has been asked to arrange for the audit of the accounts of the settlement. His report has not yet been received.

Legislative.

The work of Council Secretaries.

358 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state where the several Council Secretaries of the hon. the Ministers were stationed or were travelling and what part of their legitimate work they were doing during the sojourn of Government at Ootacamund?

A.—As Council Secretaries they are part-time officers and were not entitled to travelling allowance or to free quarters at Ootacamund. They assisted the Ministers when they were going on tour in the districts.

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Registration.*Stamp fees for returning documents presented for registration.*

359 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether payment of annas five is insisted upon for every document presented for registration for returning the same by post;

(b) what portion of the five annas is actually spent on (i) postage, (ii) envelope;

(c) whether Sub-Registrars are utilizing any portion from the deposit of five annas for purchase of stamps for their office use than for the return of documents;

(d) whether he is aware that in a majority of offices the sum of annas five is demanded as if that sum was included in the registration fees;

(e) what is the total amount of money received during the year 1924-25 for return of documents and how much of that money has been actually spent on postage and how the balance has been utilized; and

(f) in view of the fact that five annas is not required in a majority of cases for transmission of documents by post whether he will be pleased to consider the advisability of reducing the postal fee deposit?

A.—(a) Yes if the presentant desires the return of the document by post.

(b) The amounts vary with the size and weight of each document sought to be returned by post. The minimum postage including registration and acknowledgment fees is four annas and the cost of each envelope is about one pie.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (3) of question No. 914 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 15th October 1924.

(d) No.

(e) Information has been called for.

(f) The question is already under the consideration of the Government.

Development Department.

Allotment out of the remission of Provincial contributions to Department: under the hon. Development Minister.

360 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) what amount was allotted for each of the departments under his control out of the remission of Provincial contribution;

(b) whether any amount has been set apart for the improvement of the status and the increment of the salaries and grades of the veterinary assistant surgeons;

(c) whether any new dispensaries and touring billets have been started or are under contemplation, and if so at what centres; and

(d) whether any fresh recruitment of veterinary assistant surgeons has been contemplated, and if not, why not?

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A.—(a) It is proposed to move for supplementary grants for the following amounts for the various departments :—

	RS.
(1) Agriculture	1,67,825
(2) Industries	1,63,640
(3) Fisheries	44,300
(4) Co-operation	10,185
(5) Veterinary	8,935
(6) Weights and measures	1,300

(b) No.

(c) Dispensaries have been sanctioned at Krishnagiri in Salem, Gobichettipalayam in Coimbatore and Harpanahalli in Bellary. It is proposed to open three more at Kavali, Conjeeveram and Karur during 1925-26. Touring posts have been sanctioned at Namakkal, Chandragiri and Hosur and three more are proposed for Podili in Nellore, Pollachi in Coimbatore and Pithapuram in Godavari in the current year.

(d) Fresh recruits will be necessary when the three new dispensaries and the three touring billets referred to in clause (c) are sanctioned.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I ask, Sir, why so few questions have been answered to-day? Is it because all the questions have been exhausted, or because the Government have not sent in their answers to the Council Office?”

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ All the questions for which answers have been received have been put in the answer papers.”

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government, after sending an answer to the Council Office, can withdraw that answer at any stage?”

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ If the Government have no objection, Sir, we shall proceed with the unstarred questions and ask supplementary questions on them ” (Laughter).

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ With regard to the question of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, I suppose the Government can correct themselves as anyone else, whenever they find that they have made mistakes; and we should raise no objection to that. They need not stick to their mistakes or to any ‘prestige’.”

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ Is there no limit of time within which they can withdraw or correct or alter or modify their answers?”

II

DISCUSSION ON QUESTION No. 280A REGARDING THE ALLEGED ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY AN M.L.C.

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, on Friday, regarding my question No. 280A, it was enquired whether I took sufficient precautions and made sufficient enquiries so as to have any foundation for my putting that question. I requested the hon. the President to